

Soviet Graphic Art Exhibit in New York

SUBJECT: VEREISKY, Orest G.

OFFICE: M and N

Soviet graphic artist
born in Moscow, U.S.S.R.
1913

5X-4079

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1. Subject - aged 50, Russian, 5'9 - 6', black hair combed straight back, "flat" nose. A known graphic artist, whose works were exhibited ^{now} in New York, in Time and Life Building. He usually stayed only partly in the Exhibition Hall and much of his time spent in the 8th floor in his studio sketching portraits. Quite friendly and willing to talk. He was rather reserved to M in the beginning but later on when discussing problems of philosophical aesthetics in relation to creative process in art became quite "open" and turned out to be quite modern in his views. He even seemed to be eager to appear as a modern Westernly orientated artist, having nothing in common with "official social realism". He stressed, for instance, to M. on 9 Nov 1963:

"I have nothing in common with official art. Look at my paintings. Only one

picture I did, was like a photograph, but this was done just so..."

Subject was very satisfied when M and N praised his works and pointed out that they were indeed different from "current popular Soviet style".

2. Subject agreed in many points with M's views about freedom of creation and "search" for artists. Subject said that he approved of abstractionism because "abstractionists are against all kind of burger-decorativism and they strive to find the truth..." "Of course, there are many speculators among them who ideological - have nothing in common with genuine abstractionists".

According to Subject there were many abstractionists nowadays in Moscow. Some of them exhibit their paintings and sculptures "privately" because usually jury does not recommend them for Expositions.

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3. When accompanying Subject on 22 Nov 1963 from Time and Life Building to the AGA-Museum at 63 E 57th St, was told by the latter that his parents stemmed from Ukraine and he wouldn't mind seeing Ukrainian Exhibit in the 79th Street but had no time. Obviously, it was just a polite refusal. He promised, however, to meet N again after his return from Milwaukee to New York. N gave him his telephone number. N also ^{se}presented him with the book "Pioneers of Modern Art in America". Subject promised to reciprocate with a sketch especially done for N as soon as he comes back from Milwaukee.

4. According to Subject the fact that Khrushchev did not like modern art was not identical with binding party directive for everybody as it had been in the past. "The party gave no such strict binding directive and no one was to be punished for his works whatever they were". When N asked him about the difference between American and Soviet art Subject replied with one sentence: "That cannot be exhibited in the Soviet Union, can be exhibited in America and vice versa".

5. Subject showed also some of his sketches that were not exhibited to M and N, on 9 Nov 1963 and 22 Nov 1963, respectively. He refused both, however, to go for a drink or to a restaurant.

6. According to Subject the magazine "Tish Iakustvo" has great influence and good reputation among younger artists.